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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1916

THE AMERICAN CHEMIST AND THE WAR'S PROBLEMS¹

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A VOLUME could be written upon this subject if one possessed the power to assemble the material. The new problems which have arisen; the old ones which have become acute because of changed conditions; the splendid way in which the problems have been met where they were a matter of invention or skill; the new methods and processes which have sprung up as though born fullgrown; the many old ones which have been improved, altered and utilized in new connections; the way in which the chemists of the country have risen to emergencies which have compelled them to manufacture products in whose manufacture they had had no prior experience, would easily fill entire chapters in such a volume. Even so, no earthly progress, achievement or consideration can lift the pall which settles over us when we permit our minds to dwell upon the spectacle of this war. And whose mind can be diverted from it for any length of time? He must indeed exist far below the kindling-point who does not resent and despise with all his soul the philosophy and ideals which made it possible. It would be out of place therefore to consider our subject from the point of view of achievement, or felicitation, on any alleged good which has come to the science of chemistry because of the war. Surely no one would want progress at such a cost to his fellow man. We approach the subject rather in a spirit of thankfulness that we have been enabled to

¹ MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ Address before Section C, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Columbus meeting, December 30, 1915.